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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN SEPTEMBER 1997

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in September 1997 decreased more than 2% compared to the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Annualized production thus far in 1997 was calculated to be 46.3 million metric tons, which was about 5% higher than the total 1996 production of 43.8 million tons (Table 3).

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for September, increased 3% compared to the prior month, to 3.6 million tons. Annualized sales or use thus far in 1997 was calculated to be 41.7 million tons or slightly lower than the total for 1996 (Table 3).

U.S. producer ending stocks for September were about the same as the figure shown in August. In the Florida-North

Carolina region, stocks were slightly lower, while in the Idaho-Utah region, stocks were 8% higher than the previous month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco are suppressed by the Bureau of the Census; total U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 150,000 tons per month, or 1.8 million tons per year. September import data were not available at the time of publication.

Annualized domestic consumption for 1997 was calculated to be 43.5 million tons using annualized sold and used data and estimated trade data. Apparent domestic consumption for 1996, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted import data, was 43.9 million tons, compared with 42.6 million tons in 1995.

TABLE 1  
UNITED STATES PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks 2/
<b>United States:</b>			
1996 total	43,800	42,100	6,380
Jan.-Sept. 1996	32,400	31,500	XX
1996:			
September	3,540	3,860	6,360
October	4,170	3,600	6,410
November	3,520	3,580	6,330
December	3,620	3,450	6,380
1997:			
January	3,820	3,320	6,750
February	3,600	3,150	7,170
March	3,910	3,560	7,570
April	3,970	3,410	7,920
May	4,110	3,790	7,970
June	3,830	3,500	8,130
July	3,690	3,330	8,270
August	3,900	3,510	8,490
September	3,810	3,600	8,560
Year to date	34,600	31,200	XX
<b>Florida and North Carolina:</b>			
1996 total	37,800	36,300	4,690
Jan.-Sept. 1996	27,900	27,100	XX
1996:			
September	2,990	3,170	4,430
October	3,310	3,100	4,490
November	3,280	3,150	4,600
December	3,290	3,080	4,690
1997:			
January	3,440	2,930	5,080
February	3,170	2,820	5,390
March	3,460	3,160	5,730
April	3,460	2,960	6,180
May	3,460	3,230	6,370
June	3,130	3,040	6,520
July	2,950	2,820	6,680
August	3,150	2,920	6,920
September	2,950	3,040	6,860
Year to date	29,200	26,900	XX
<b>Idaho and Utah:</b>			
1996 total	5,980	5,830	1,690
Jan.-Sept. 1996	4,540	4,520	XX
1996:			
September	552	690 e/	1,930 e/
October	860	501	1,920
November	241	427	1,730
December	334	376	1,690
1997:			
January	376	392	1,670
February	433	326	1,780
March	455	395	1,840
April	515	447	1,740
May	650	561	1,600
June	698	463	1,610
July	735	518	1,590
August	750	589	1,570
September	859	558	1,700
Year to date	5,480	4,250	XX

e/ Estimated. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Imports	
	Quantity	Value
1996 total e/	1,800	104,000
Jan.-August 1996	370	21,500
1996:		
September	66	3,820
October	(3/)	26
November	66	3,780
December	67	3,850
1997:		
January	101	4,310
February	(3/)	23
March	67	3,800
April	58	3,150
May	60	3,240
June	68	4,160
July	62	3,790
August	62	3,800
Year to date	478	26,300

e/ Estimated.

1/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco are suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons per year and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	1994	1995	1996	1997
United States:				
Marketable production:				
Florida and North Carolina	34.0	38.0	37.8	39.0
Idaho and Utah	7.1	5.5	6.0	7.3
Total 1/	41.1	43.5	43.8	46.3
Sold or used by producers: 2/				
Florida and North Carolina	37.4	38.1	36.3	36.0
Idaho and Utah	6.7	5.6	5.8	5.7
Total 1/	44.1	43.7	42.1	41.7
Yearend stocks	6.0	5.7	6.4	XX
Exports	2.8	2.9	W	W
Average value per ton	\$25.60	\$25.66	\$31.56	\$32.91
Imports for consumption	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/
Average value per ton	\$48.76	\$51.30	57.84 e/	XX
Apparent consumption 3/	43.1 e/	42.6 e/	43.9 e/	43.5 e/

e/ Estimated. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Includes exports reported by producers.

3/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports, where imports are estimated to average about 150,000 tons per month (and though the average monthly estimate may appreciably exceed any one month's reported imports).